



The Kim's family's take on Woodland Happy Valley Pre-School

Jeong-Youn Cho and Eungsoo Kim, and children Joshua Kim (6) and Bryan Kim (3), Korean. In Hong Kong for almost three years.

Which of your children go to Woodland?

Bryan is currently attending Woodland Pre-School Happy Valley and has just finished his first year (though he was in the playgroup for about six months prior to joining the pre-school programme). Our older son was also at Woodland for his Reception year before he started at primary school.

Describe your experience at the school.

The most important thing for us when selecting a school on arriving in Hong Kong was finding a safe and nurturing environment that our children could thrive in. We arrived excited but also a little worried about whether our then four-year-old son could adapt to school and life in Hong Kong.

We were pleasantly surprised to find that the small-sized classes, amazing teachers and tight-knit community were a perfect fit for our family. Joshua made friends immediately, and I was also able to

make connections quickly with the parents of other children.

We could see that the curriculum was rigorous but with an emphasis on play. Joshua learned so much in his final year at Woodland but he also had so much fun learning. It's not surprising that we have chosen to send Bryan there too. In his first year of formal schooling, Bryan has really blossomed, learning independence, social skills, having fun, learning about numbers, cultures, planets... what a jam-packed year this has been!

How did you hear of Woodland?

We had heard about the Woodland Pre-schools when we first arrived in Hong Kong. We toured the Happy Valley school and noticed that, though the premises were quite small, the teachers had found creative ways to utilise the space, and that actually the school seemed like an intimate and cosy environment which we felt would help our son to feel safe in.

What do Joshua and Bryan like

most about the school?

Joshua has amazingly fond memories of going there, and still remembers his friends from over the years. We still meet up and play and celebrate birthdays and holidays together. He also remembers the teachers and loves when he gets a chance to go back there to pick up Bryan. Bryan says he loves all his teachers; his favourite place is the playground – especially the slides.

Every family has different priorities and needs, but if caring and loving teachers and a tight-knit community are important to you, you should most definitely consider Woodland Pre-School Happy Valley. With the small classes, both my boys have thrived in all aspects. We couldn't be happier with the school.

Woodland Happy Valley Pre-School
2 Hawthorn Road, Happy Valley
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Preschool transition tips

- Visit the preschool with your child; let them get familiar with the new surroundings, the classroom, the playroom and most importantly introduce your child to the teachers
- Talk to your child about preschool, what they will do there, how much fun they will be having and who else will be there (maybe a friend or sibling is attending)
- Run your child through the daily schedule so that they are prepared for what to expect during the time spent in preschool
- Reassure your child that you will be there when school is finished to greet and spend the rest of the day with them
- Inform teachers of your child's favourite toy, game or song to help sooth anxiety